



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Obituary.

LOUIS EMIL MENDER.

(June 29th, 1871—August 4th, 1903).

When the Johns Hopkins University opened in the fall of 1890, there appeared in the Department of Romance Languages a new graduate student, who at first sight gave no great promise of being a valuable acquisition. Over six feet tall, excessively slim, with a head even larger than the proportions of his great stature required, to a casual observer he did not appear to be, at the age of barely nineteen, a strong, healthy young man who could stand the years of hard study that were before him. And surely he would need to study hard. Two years before, he had received the degree of A. B. at Mississippi College, and although he had thereupon taught Latin and German in a female institute at Vicksburg, his preparation did not seem to be of great value for one about to enter upon the work he had chosen to do in Baltimore. Of French he knew no more than the rudiments; as for the other Romance languages, he had never even touched them. Truly, judged from these facts, he was far from being hopeful material for the making of a Romance scholar.

But, coming from good North German stock, he was strong and hearty, had been carefully brought up among simple, healthful surroundings, and well understood his obligations to his parents for the thorough schooling they had given him, the best that it had been in their power to provide. And the quiet gravity of his manner, the bright gleam of his eyes, the firm determination stamped in the lines of his striking face, called for respect when one looked at him more closely. Seeing him in the lecture room, keenly watchful not to miss a word that could add to his knowledge, or hearing him give forth, in pointed and precise words, what he had carefully worked over, you could but say that if earnestness of purpose would do it, he was bound to succeed in mastering the difficult subjects with which he would have to deal.

Thus, one year after he had come to the University, I found him, and the year's work had

done wonders. He had gained a firm grasp upon the first principles of the philological study of languages; had been well started off in Modern French; had occupied his summer in further training with Fortier at New Orleans, and in those few months had acquired considerable familiarity with the language. When his second year began, the work in Old Provençal poetry brought him and me together, and well I remember how he never would think of rest until the task had been done to absolute perfection.

In the class-room, no one was as well prepared, and a fact once brought forward there never was allowed to slip from his memory. When Christmas came and the scholarships were awarded, he felt keen disappointment at not receiving that distinction; but in his characteristic manner, and in blunt language, he announced to his intimates: "All the same, I shall earn the Fellowship in June, or die in the effort." Earn it he did, with a paper on a point of Italian philology that later was worked out more fully in his Doctor's dissertation; but the strain of the exertion came near being too great. What bore him up through it all and enabled him to cast off weariness, illness even, was the one thought: "Won't my father be happy if I get the Fellowship." It is no betrayal to his memory if I quote this from a letter found among his papers, which began: "This is the proudest day of my life, and the happiest letter I shall ever write to anyone even if I live a hundred years."

A short time before the University thus expressed its approval of his progress, he had given proof of his enthusiasm for his studies. The Department celebrated Dr. A. M. Elliott's promotion to full Professorship, with a dinner at which speeches were made in several of the Romance languages. In those days, the predilect subject of Dr. Elliott was Marie de France's Anglo-Norman, and most appropriately Menger read us a toast in Anglo-Norman when his turn came.

In the summer of 1892 he studied phonetics and improved his French with Paul Passy, and one more year of work in Baltimore sufficed to see him obtain the Doctor's degree, for which he offered a dissertation: *The historical development of the possessive pronouns in Italian*. His characteristic energy showed itself once more in printing the dissertation before the degree was conferred.

The monograph is dedicated to his father, with a tribute the more touching for its simplicity.

In full realization of the great good that his student years at Johns Hopkins did him, and eager that others should share in the benefit of his experience, he ever afterwards animated young men to the pursuance of graduate studies, and not a few have to thank him for thus being started upon a more fruitful career.

In 1893 Dr. John E. Matzke left Johns Hopkins University for Leland Stanford, and Menger was put in charge of his work. He spent the summer studying in Italy, and from that time on made that fair land his summer home whenever he could. From the first he showed that if he could acquire and assimilate knowledge, he knew how to impart it to others as well. His courses in phonetics, Old French, Italian, Italian philology, and Italian literary history were inspiring, not only for the information to be gathered from them, but also for the earnestness and the modest assurance of the teacher. He spared no pains to perfect his equipment, and by rapid degrees he added to his store of knowledge. Especially was he training himself to test dogmatic statements, even when they came from persons high in authority, in order thereby to be more fitted for the training of others. No wonder that he was held in highest regard by his colleagues and his students alike, and many an older and more learned man was ever ready to give careful attention to his words. Nor was it strange that when in 1897 Bryn Mawr College decided to establish a more complete department of Romance Languages, Menger was the first man thought of, and with his appointment as Associate Professor in Romance Philology and Italian the College had at once gained distinction and respect for the work that was to be done there.

The encouraging compliment of being chosen for that position even increased his devotion to his chosen work. His success as a teacher was rewarded by promotion to the Professorship after three years of service; and in the hopeful brightness of the future he founded a home that was a delight to all who saw it. In Baltimore his published work had been confined to shorter articles;¹ at Bryn Mawr he undertook what was to be a

task of many years: a series of manuals on Old French dialects, upon the preparation of which he entered after long meditation on the need for, and the importance of, such a synthetic treatment. Steadily, untiringly, he gathered and digested his material, and after six years he felt that he had reached the point when it became desirable to submit a section of the work to Romance scholars, in order that in the continuation of the series he might profit by their criticisms. After printing a preliminary article² to indicate his purpose and method, he placed the manuscript of *A Manual of the Anglo-Norman Dialect* in the publisher's hands. The first proof reached him and he corrected it.

He was not destined to see his work in book-form. Death came to him suddenly, without warning. When life was joy indeed, in the fullness of healthy, manly strength, on August 4th, 1903, he was drowned in Lago Maggiore. They laid him to rest in the little churchyard at Ghiffa, a beautiful spot in the land he loved so well. A young wife, a loving mother, and many admiring friends, mourn him and cherish his memory.

F. DE HAAN.

Bryn Mawr College.

-
1893. "The Historical Development of the Possessive Pronouns in Italian." (Publications of the Modern Language Association, VIII, 141-209).

[Also published separately as dissertation. Reviewed: G. Paris, *Rom.* XXII, 615-616; Parodi, *Rom.* XXV, 137-141].

1894. "Modern Italian Readings." [review]. (*M. L. N.*, IX, 180-185).

"The Bible in Phonetic Script." (*M. L. N.*, IX, 316-318).

1895. "French Pronunciation." [review]. (*M. L. N.*, X, 57-58).

"Free and Checked Vowels in Gallic Popular Latin." (*M. L. P.*, X, 306-341). [Reviewed: Behrens, *Z. R. P.*, XXI, 304-305; Meyer-Lübke, *LgrP.*, XVII, 340-341].

1896. "On the Development of Popular Latin *e* into French *ei*, *oi*." (*M. L. N.*, XI, 116-120).

"German *w* into French *gu*." (*M. L. N.*, XI, 252-254).

1897. "Early Italian Poetry." [review]. (*M. L. N.* XII, 182-186).

- ²1903. "Notes on the History of Free Open *o* in Anglo-Norman." (*M. L. N.*, XVIII, 106-111).

¹1892. "Some Notes on the American Pronunciation of English. (*Maître phonétique*, 1892).

"*E in tutti e tre, tutte e tre.*" (*Modern Language Notes*, VII, 495-501).